

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated.

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, the apparatus comprising:

an input port configured to receive a stream of key codes transmitted from a keyboard;

a filtering module, operably connected with the input port and ~~storage~~comprising a rules table containing key codes and rules associated with each key code, each rule ~~specifying~~determining whether a key code is to be blocked or transmitted, the filtering module configured to block ~~only selected~~key codes and combinations of key codes of the stream of key codes selected in accordance with the rules table; and

an output port, operably connected with the filtering module, the output port configured to pass ~~the~~unblocked key codes to a host computer.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filtering module is implemented independent of the keyboard and the host computer.

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filtering module further comprises a processor configured to execute computer code for blocking the ~~selected~~key codes and the combinations of key codes.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the filtering module further comprises a memory device connected to the processor for storing the computer code.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~key codes of the stream of

key codes comprise make key codes corresponding to keys that are pressed, and release key codes corresponding to keys that are released, and wherein each key on the keyboard is characterized by a unique make key code and a unique release key code.

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filtering module further comprises:

a make list ~~storage~~containing a list of make key codes that have been received and transmitted to the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received; and

a block list ~~storage~~containing a list of make key codes that have been received and blocked from the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filtering module comprises a microcontroller.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the microcontroller is configured to operate using power received from the host computer.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the functionality of the filtering module is only~~exclusively~~ provided by electrical hardware.

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the functionality of the filtering module is provided by a combination of electrical hardware and computer software executing on a CPU.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filtering module is located proximate to at least one of the keyboard and the host computer.

12. (Currently amended) A method for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, the method comprising:

intercepting a stream of key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer;

~~testing the key codes with~~maintaining a rules table containing key codes and rules associated with each key code, each rule ~~specifying~~determining whether a key code is to be blocked or transmitted;

blocking, independently from the keyboard and host computer, ~~at least one of the intercepted~~only key codes and combinations of key codes of the stream of key codes selected in accordance with the rules table; and

passing ~~the~~ unblocked key codes from the stream of key codes to the host computer.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the key codes of the stream of key codes comprise make key codes corresponding to keys that are pressed, and release key codes corresponding to keys that are released, and wherein each key on the keyboard is characterized by a make key code and a release key code.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~³, further comprising:

~~testing the key codes of the stream of key codes with~~maintaining a make list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and transmitted to the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received; and

~~testing the key codes of the stream of key codes with~~maintaining a block list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and blocked from the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein blocking further comprises blocking using only~~exclusively with~~ hardware.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein blocking further comprises blocking with a combination of hardware and software.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein a memory device stores the rules table and further comprising reprogramming ~~[[a]]the memory device to alter the rules~~a set of at least one of the selected key codes, sequences of key codes, and combinations of key codes.

19. (Currently amended) A system for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, the system comprising:

a keyboard;

a key code filter ~~storing~~containing a rules table containing key codes and rules associated with each key code, each rule ~~specifying~~determining whether a key code is to be blocked or transmitted, the key code filter configured to receive a stream of key codes from the keyboard and block ~~only at least one of selected~~ key codes, sequences of key codes, and combinations of key codes of the stream of key codes selected in accordance with the rules table;

and

a host computer configured to receive unblocked key codes from the key code filter.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, wherein the key code filter is implemented independently of the keyboard and the host computer.

21. (Currently amended) An apparatus for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, the apparatus comprising:

a key code filter configured to intercept a stream of key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer and to test the intercepted key codes with~~maintain~~ a rules table containing key codes and rules associated with each key code, each rule specifying~~determining~~ whether a key code is to be blocked or transmitted; and

the key code filter further configured to block transmission of only~~of at least one~~ of ~~selected~~ key codes, sequences of key codes, and combinations of key codes of the stream of key codes selected in accordance with the rules table.

22. (Currently amended) A software program product comprising a CPU-useable medium having a CPU-readable programe~~computer-readable medium for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, wherein the CPU-readable program when executed on a CPU causes the CPU to~~computer-readable medium comprising computer code configured to carry out a method comprising:

receiveing and transmitting key codes ~~to and from a keyboard and host computer;~~
and

test the key codes with~~maintaining~~ a rules table containing key codes and rules

associated with each key code, each rule ~~specifying~~determining whether a key code is to be blocked or transmitted; and

~~blocking from transmission to a host computer,~~ independently from the keyboard and ~~the~~ host computer, only a key code set selected in accordance with the rules table, the key code set selected from ~~at least one of selected~~ key code[[s]], a sequence[[s]] of key codes, and a combination[[s]] of key codes.

23. (Currently amended) The ~~software program product~~computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the received key codes comprise make key codes corresponding to keys that are pressed, and release key codes corresponding to keys that are released, wherein each key on the keyboard is characterized by a make key code and a release key code.

24. (Currently amended) The ~~software program product~~computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the CPU-readable program is further configured to cause the CPU to filter ~~module further comprises:~~

test the received key codes with~~maintaining~~ a make list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and transmitted to the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received; and

test the received key codes with~~maintaining~~ a block list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and blocked from the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received and wherein blocking one of selected key codes, sequences of key codes, and combinations of key codes comprises consulting the block list.

25. (Currently amended) An apparatus for filtering out selected key codes transmitted

between a keyboard and a host computer, the apparatus comprising:

a filtering module configured to receive a stream of key codes and block at least one of selected key codes, sequences of key codes, and combinations of key codes, the filtering module ~~storing~~containing:

a rules table containing key codes and rules associated with each key code, each rule ~~specifying~~determining whether a key code is blocked or transmitted;

a make list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and transmitted to the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received; ~~and~~

a block list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and blocked from the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received~~[[.]]; and~~

the filtering module further configured to block only key codes and combinations of key codes of the stream of key codes selected in accordance with the rules table.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)